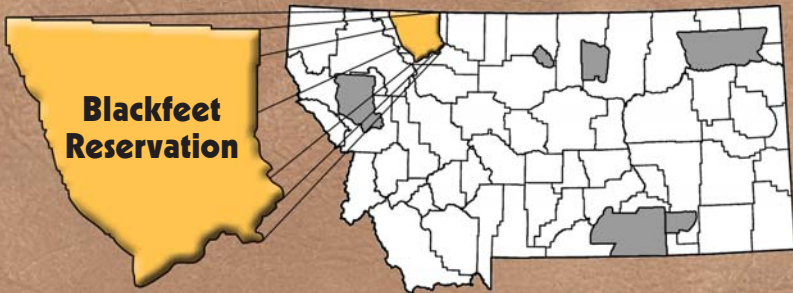




photo courtesy of Donnie Sexton, Travel Montana

Demographic & Economic Information for

Blackfeet Reservation



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WORKFORCE SERVICES DIVISION
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

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State Tribal Economic Development Commission
Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Blackfeet Reservation

The Blackfeet Reservation, headquartered in Browning, is the third largest reservation with the largest Indian population in Montana, encompassing 1.5 million acres. It lies along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains on the Canadian border, and is the eastern gateway to Glacier National Park. Home to 56% of the enrolled tribal members, the reservation's economy is primarily agriculture based.

Fifty-six percent of the agriculture producers are Blackfeet members. The Blackfeet Tribe owns seven profitable tribal farms and ranches and manages a successful Bison Range Cooperative program. Beginning in the spring of 2008, the Blackfeet Tribe's Land Department, in partnership with Browning Public Schools and Blackfeet Community College, will celebrate the opening of a Blackfeet Historical and Cultural tourists center, located 12 miles east of Browning. The teepee village offers Blackfeet teepees to accommodate fifteen over-night visitors, a historical museum, cultural events, and other amenities while providing visitors a view of the bison and tours of the eastern entrance to Glacier National Park. Income generated from the historical cultural village supports public services and community cultural events. The Blackfeet Tribe is the largest employer, providing work to approximately 800, with seasonal injections of up to 150 additional positions. Other major employers include Browning Public Schools (which provides 388 jobs), Indian Health Service (230), Bureau of Indian Affairs (61), Blackfeet Housing Authority (100), and Blackfeet Community College (81). Siyeh Development Corporation, a tribally-owned enterprise, manages the gaming establishments Glacier Peaks and Discovery Lodge casinos, and employs another 140 people. The private sector hosts 62 businesses in the community, of which 81% are Blackfeet or Indian owned. Teepees IGA provides work for 49 employees and is expected to increase that number by 12 with their new expansion. It is currently the largest private employer in Browning. 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative added to the community this year with a Radio Shack. The Plains Indian Museum and Blackfeet Heritage Center provide visitors with Blackfeet-made art and crafts and have numerous Blackfeet-made retail and herbal products.

The Tribe's other economic ventures include Pikkuni (pronounced bee-kun-knee) Industries Inc., another tribal enterprise which is a manufacturing business, was awarded a 2.4 million dollar Department of Defense contract to manufacture synthetic fiber. In partnership with utility corporations, the Blackfeet Renewable Energy Department is embarking upon energy development, including wind energy. In conjunction with a grant made possible from the Department of Energy, wind energy development is in its first phase.

According to the most recent BIA labor force report, 35% of the Tribe's enrolled members are below the age of 18. To attract and retain the Tribe's youthful population, the Blackfeet Community College initiated online services with MSU-Northern, the University of Montana, the University of Great Falls, and a Blackfeet bi-lingual teacher training institute to offer baccalaureate degrees in education. Construction of the new high school is underway, since receiving \$12 million from the Browning Board of Trustees through their creation of a building reserve fund, mill levy, and revenue bonds.

Blackfeet Reservation - Agricultural Statistics

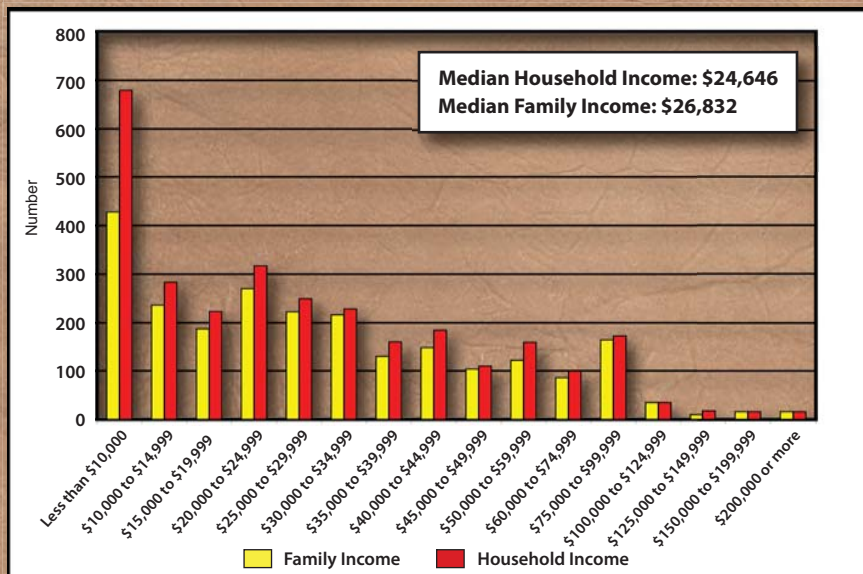
2002 Census of Agriculture

Farms Operated by
All Farms American Indians

Farms		
Farms: (number)	354	198
Land in farms (acres)	1,602,499	957,487
Average size of farms (acres)	4,527	4,836
Farms by size: (number)		
Less than 1,000 acres	125	86
1,000 acres or more	229	112
Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)		
Less than \$100,000	259	175
\$100,000 or more	95	23
Farms by type of organization: (number)		
Family, Individual, Partnership	308	184
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	46	14
Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested		
Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)		
Cattle and calves	42,318	21,781
Hogs and pigs	17,518	(D)
Sheep and lambs	290	(D)
Horses and ponies	2,995	2,313
Bison	(D)	(D)
Chickens (layers and broilers)	25,934	48
Crops Harvested (acres)		
Corn for grain	-	-
Corn for silage or greenchop	-	-
Wheat for grain, All	113,100	7,582
Winter wheat for grain	(D)	-
Durum wheat for grain	(D)	(D)
Spring wheat for grain	103,032	(D)
Barley for grain	87,349	11,679
Oats for grain	650	180
Sunflower seed, All	-	-
Soybeans for beans	-	-
Hay, haylage, grass silage	43,782	18,811
Operator Demographics		
Primary occupation: (number)		
Farming	400	164
Other	184	98
Place of residence: (number)		
On farm operated	470	227
Not on farm operated	114	35
Years on present farm: (number)		
Less than 10 years	141	63
10 years or more	443	199
Age group: (number)		
Under 55 years	360	168
55 years and over	224	94
Average age of operators: (number)	50.7	50.0

(D): Not Disclosable Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Blackfeet Reservation - Distribution of Income by Family and Household from Census 2000



Household Income: This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income.

Family Income: In compiling statistics on family income, the incomes of all members 15 years old and over related to the householder are summed and treated as a single amount.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Blackfeet Reservation - Educational Attainment Population 25 Years and Older

Educational Attainment	Total	American Indian
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	24.7%	26.0%
Associate Degree	11.1%	12.2%
Bachelor's Degree	8.0%	5.3%
Master's Degree	4.1%	2.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Owner and Renter Occupied Housing Units

Housing	Total	American Indian
Owner Occupied	55.2%	54.7%
Rental Occupied	44.8%	45.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Blackfeet Reservation - Labor Force Statistics

The table below provides labor force statistics from three separate sources. The reader will notice some of the numbers are dissimilar, owing to the differing definitions and statistical techniques used by each source. These differences are explained below:

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS):

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the reservation, not the tribe.
- Unemployment rates produced by MT Department of Labor
- Labor Force definition
 - Civilian, non-institutional population 16 years and older
 - The sum of Employment and Unemployment
- Employment definition
 - Did any work as paid employees
 - Worked in their own business, profession, or farm
 - Worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family owned enterprise
- Unemployment definition
 - Have not worked during monthly survey period (usually the week containing the 12th of the month)
 - Available for work
 - Actively seeking a job during last four weeks
- Unemployment Rate definition
 - Equal to the number of Unemployed divided by number in the Labor Force

U.S. Census Bureau:

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the reservation, not the tribe.
- Uses the same definitions for Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment as BLS
- Self-reported every ten years
- Rate reflects employment status as of April 1st, 2000

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA):

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the tribe, not the reservation.
- Labor Force definition
 - Number of tribal members between 16 and 64 years old
 - Available for work
 - Not disabled or incarcerated
- Employment definition
 - Tribal members working for money
- Unemployment definition
 - Calculated by subtracting Employment from Labor Force

	Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemp.	Unemp. Rate
MT Dept. of Labor & Industry	2006	4,028	3,557	472	11.7%
U.S. Census Bureau	2000	4,064	3,148	918	22.6%
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs	2005	5,478	1,725	3,753	68.5%

Blackfeet Reservation - Occupation by Gender

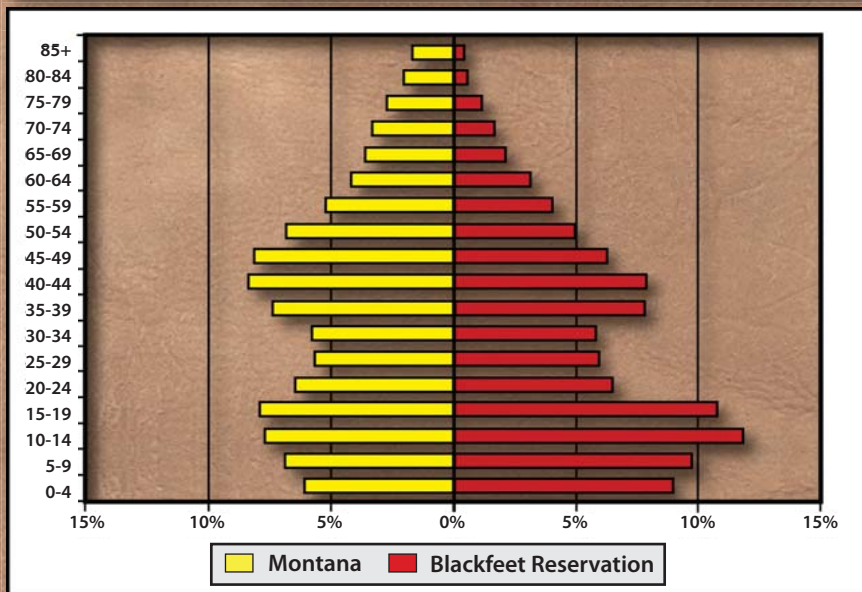
Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over

Occupation	Total	American Indian
Total:	3,146	2,368
Male:	1,581	1,179
Management, professional, and related occupations	541	329
Service occupations	256	231
Sales and office occupations	155	123
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	121	61
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	322	267
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	186	168
Female:	1,565	1,189
Management, professional, and related occupations	708	465
Service occupations	345	287
Sales and office occupations	453	407
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	6	0
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	15	6
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	38	24

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Blackfeet Reservation - Population Pyramid

Percent of Total Reservation Population by Age Group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Blackfeet Wage & Salary Employment Annual Averages 2005 - 2006

Industry	2005		2006		Employ. Growth	Wage Growth
	Employ.	Wages	Employ.	Wages		
Total	2,331	\$28,037	2,520	\$29,195	8.1%	4.1%
Total Private	543	\$17,966	552	\$17,823	1.7%	-0.8%
Goods Producing	67	\$25,837	64	\$28,410	-4.4%	10.0%
Mining	37	\$29,031	N/A	N/A	-	-
Support Activities for Mining	37	\$29,031	N/A	N/A	-	-
Construction	N/A	N/A	24	\$20,783	-	-
Service Providing	475	\$16,849	488	\$16,434	2.8%	-2.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	158	\$16,204	166	\$17,259	5.3%	6.5%
Retail Trade	154	\$15,667	164	\$16,705	6.7%	6.6%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	11	\$18,670	N/A	N/A	-	-
Food and Beverage Stores	70	\$19,861	77	\$19,657	10.4%	-1.0%
Education and Health Services	32	\$17,167	37	\$23,232	14.8%	35.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	161	\$18,094	146	\$13,918	-9.6%	-23.1%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3	\$18,310	6	\$28,018	86.1%	53.0%
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation	3	\$18,310	3	\$25,917	-8.3%	41.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	158	\$18,089	140	\$13,356	-11.4%	-26.2%
Food Services and Drinking Places	N/A	N/A	81	\$10,599	-	-
Other Services	12	\$9,204	12	\$7,490	2.8%	-18.6%
Total Government	1,789	\$31,092	1,968	\$32,387	10.0%	4.2%
Federal Government	383	\$50,700	421	\$49,666	9.9%	-2.0%
Local Government	1,405	\$25,743	1,546	\$27,689	10.0%	7.6%
Local Gov. Education	635	\$28,917	605	\$31,513	-4.8%	9.0%
Local Gov. Non-Education	770	\$23,126	941	\$25,232	22.2%	9.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Note: This data is based on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) series which compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. Some sectors are not shown to preserve confidentiality of individual businesses

American Indian and Total Population for Blackfeet Reservation and Related Areas

Geography	American Indian Population						
	Census	Estimates					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Blackfeet Reservation	8,507	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Glacier County	8,077	8,004	8,086	8,161	8,256	8,289	8,332
Browning	964	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Glacier Park Village CDP*	205	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Browning CDP*	2,062	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Browning CDP*	1,583	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Starr School CDP*	241	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pondera County	913	941	934	915	927	961	963
Heart Butte CDP*	654	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Geography	Total Population						
	Census	Estimates					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Blackfeet Reservation	10,100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Glacier County	13,247	13,129	13,197	13,283	13,519	13,522	13,578
Browning	1,065	1,056	1,061	1,067	1,085	1,076	1,079
East Glacier Park Village CDP*	396	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Browning CDP*	2,200	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Browning CDP*	1,677	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Starr School CDP*	248	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pondera County	6,424	6,356	6,253	6,186	6,096	6,084	6,032
Heart Butte CDP*	698	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

n/a = Not available

*Census designated places (CDPs) are delineated for each decennial census as the statistical counterparts of incorporated places. CDPs are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located. The boundaries usually are defined in cooperation with local and tribal officials. These boundaries, which usually coincide with visible features or the boundary of an adjacent incorporated place or other legal entity boundary, have no legal status, nor do these places have officials elected to serve traditional municipal functions.

Blackfeet Reservation Information



Tribal Chairman
Earl Old Person

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Governor
Brian Schweitzer

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